SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-1047 JANAUARY 23, 1973
MALLORY SALESON/MUNICH

WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIP

ANNCR:

THE ALPINE WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIP GETS UNDERWAY AT THE END OF JANUARY IN GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN. MALLORY SALESON FILED THIS REPORT ON WHO AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE UPCOMING EVENT.

VOICE:

MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED ENTRANTS FROM THIRTY-FIVE NATIONS WILL COMPETE IN THIS YEAR'S WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIP. THE EVENT WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY FOUR YEARS -- OPENS LATER THIS MONTH IN THE ALPINE VILLAGE OF GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN. ONCE TWO SEPARATE AND UNFRIENDLY TOWNS, GARMISCH -- PARTENKIRCHEN WERE JOINED OFFICIALLY TO HOST THE NINETEEN THIRTY-SIX WINTER OLYMPICS.

AS WITH ANY SPORTING EVENT, SEVERAL MEN AND WOMEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN PICKED AS FAVORITES TO WIN THE VARIOUS RACES. BUT ORGANIZERS OF THE SKI CHAMPIONSHIP PREDICT THERE MAY BE SOME SURPRISES THIS YEAR.

IN THE MEN'S EVENTS, FRANZ KLAMMER OF AUSTRIA, HERBERT PLANK OF ITALY AND BERNHARD RUSSI OF SWITZERLAND ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THE DOWNHILL RACE. FAVORITES IN THE SLALOM AND GIANT SLALOM ARE INGEMAR STENMARK OF SWEDEN, PHIL MAHRE OF THE UNITED STATES, SWITZERLAND'S HEINI HEMMI AND AUSTRIAN KLAUS HEIDEGGER.

AN UPSET THIS YEAR COULD COME FROM SLALOM SPECIALIST PETER POPANGELOV OF BULGARIA. POPANGELOV WAS FIRST IN THE EUROPEAN CUP LAST SEASON AND HAS MADE A GOOD SHOWING IN THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP RACES.

IN THE WOMEN'S EVENTS, ANNEMARIE MOSER OF AUSTRIA IS EXPECTED TO WIN THE DOWNHILL RACE. EVI MITTERMAIER OF WEST GERMANY, CINDY NELSON OF THE UNITED STATES AND MARIE-THERESE NADIG OF SWITZERLAND ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO PLACE IN THE TOP FIVE. LISE-MARIE MORREROD OF SWITZERLAND IS EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THE SLALOM AND GIANT SLALOM RACES. STRONG COMPETITION WILL COME FROM IRENE EPPLE OF WEST GERMANY AND MISSUS MOSER. A SURPRISE SHOWING IN THIS CATEGORY MAY COME FROM PERRINE PELEN OF FRANCE, WHO WAS SECOND IN THE SLALOM OVERALL LAST YEAR.

THANKS TO THE MEDIA, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE SKI CHAMPIONSHIP AND GET A GLIMPSE OF THE CHARM OF GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN. NINE HUNDRED JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTATORS, REPRESENTING MORE THAN TWENTY COUNTRIES, WILL SOON ARRIVE IN THIS ALPINE VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS.

EARLIER THIS MONTH ORGANIZERS WERE CONCERNED OVER THE LACK OF SNOW IN BAVARIA, BUT SEVERAL SNOWSTORMS AND A DROP IN TEMPERATURE TO BELOW FREEZING HAVE REMOVED THE FEAR OF HOSTING A SKI CHAMPIONSHIP WITHOUT SNOW. OFFICIALS SAY THERE ARE NOW AT LEAST TEN CENTIMETERS OF WELL-PACKED SNOW COVERING THE COURSES. AND ORGANIZERS SAY THEY ARE NOT WORRIED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF RAIN, FOG OR A LIGHT SNOW ON THE DAY OF THE RACES -- ALL POSSIBLE PROBLEMS OR HAZARDS. WITH STOCKPILES OF SNOW, THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT AND LUCK, THEY SAY THEY'RE READY AND PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.

BML/PBM